

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Listing of Claims

Claims 1. – 17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A device for malting grains comprising:

a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors;

air-permeable supporting floors associated with each story being structured and arranged to support grain to be germinated;

air flow paths associated with each story ~~composed of~~ comprising supply channels, displacement elements, and discharge channels, wherein an air flow path for a respective story comprises air flow through a respective supply channel, through respective displacement elements and a respective supporting floor and its associated grain, and through a respective discharge path; and

at least one central opening within the respective story, through which at least the ~~air flow path~~ respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel for the respective story flows ~~[[,]]~~ are arranged ~~within the respective story~~.

19. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements for conditioning air to be supplied to the grain.

20. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the discharge channel empties at least one of into an underpressure chamber and through an opening into an outside environment.

21. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising a central floor opening through at least one of respective story floors delineating the respective story, wherein the respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel are arranged to abut each other as they extend through the central floor opening.

22. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 21, wherein the central floor opening is circular.

23. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 22, wherein at least one of the respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel has an at least primarily segmented cross-section at the at least one central floor opening.

24. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 21, wherein the at least one central floor opening is at least 10 meters in diameter.

25. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 24, wherein the at least one central floor opening is at least 12 meters in diameter.

26. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein each supporting floor is annular with an interior diameter of at least 10 meters.

27. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the interior diameter for each supporting floor is at least 12 meters.

28. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the supporting floor has a radial span of at least 7 meters between the interior diameter and an exterior diameter.

29. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 26, wherein the supporting floor is rotatable around a rotational axis extending through a central axis of the annular shape.

30. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located below a lowermost supporting floor for the grain to be germinated.

31. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located above an uppermost supporting floor for the grain to be germinated.

32. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising air conditioning elements located within an outer periphery of the story floors for the grain to be germinated.

33. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, further comprising another supporting floor arranged to support germinated grain to be dried and located below a lowermost supporting floor to support the grain to be germinated.

34. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 33, wherein the another supporting floor to support the germinated grain to be dried has dimensions similar to those of the supporting floors to support the grain to be germinated.

35. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the supporting floors are air permeable.

36. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 18, wherein the supporting floors are perforated.

37. (Currently amended) A method for malting grains in a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors, comprising:

arranging grain to be germinated on a respective air-permeable supporting floor associated with at least one of the plurality of stories;

guiding air through at least one flow paths path associated with the at least one of the plurality of stories, the flow path extending through ~~composed a~~ respective supply channel, through respective displacement elements, through ~~and~~ the respective supporting floor and its associated grain, and through a respective discharge path; and

guiding the air in the supply channel and in the discharge channel ~~flow-path~~ through at least one central opening arranged within the one of the plurality of stories.

38. (New) A device for malting grains comprising:  
a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors;  
air-permeable supporting floors associated with each story being structured and arranged to support grain to be germinated;  
at least one supply channel;

at least one discharge channel;

displacement elements arranged between the at least one supply channel and the at least one discharge channel;

an air flow generator structured and arranged to generate an air flow path through the at least one supply channel, through the displacement elements, through at least one of the air-permeable supporting floors and the grain supported thereon, and through the at least one discharge channel; and

at least one central opening within at least one story, through which the at least one supply channel and the at least one discharge channel extend.